

How to Meet the Placer County Bear Access Ordinance Requirements When Applying for a Building Permit



- If you are applying for a building permit to construct a new residential unit or an addition of more than 500 square feet of living space, an approved bear-resistant garbage can enclosure must be installed per Placer County Code Chapter 8.16.
- Residential garages will not be included when calculating the square footage of an addition unless the garage will include living space.
- The location of the bear-resistant garbage can enclosure needs to be indicated on all site plans submitted to the Building Department. If the site plans have already been printed or submitted to the Building Department, you can draw the location to scale on the site plans in green ink as requested by the Building Department. Please do not generate a new site plan solely for the purpose of indicating the location of the bear enclosure.
- The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be approving the location of the bear enclosure. You will need to consult with DPW to determine the setback from the edge of pavement for the bear-resistant garbage enclosure location. A minimum 15' setback is normally required. Bear Bins that comply with the setback requirement but are still located in County Right-of-Way will require an encroachment permit (\$60). Environmental Health will not signoff on the building permit until DPW approves the location of the garbage enclosure on the site plan. If a bear-resistant garbage can enclosure is already in existence, the location still must be approved by DPW prior to Environmental Health approval for permit issuance. In some instances, relocation of improperly installed bear enclosures may be required. Please see DPW requirements on the reverse side of this notice, or contact the department at (530) 581-6227. Environmental Health and DPW must approve the location.
- Placer County Environmental Health recommends that the bear-resistant enclosure be within 20 feet of a county maintained road. If the enclosure is located more than 20 feet from the edge of pavement, homeowners are advised that Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) may charge an extra fee for servicing the enclosure. Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal offers on-site consultations at no charge to help determine a location for the enclosure. You can contact TTSD at (530) 583-0148. Most of the seven approved bear enclosures are displayed at the TTSD office at the Eastern Regional Landfill at Highway 89 and Cabin Creek Road in Truckee. TTSD approved bear enclosure locations must be consistent with DPW and Environmental Health requirements.
- If a garbage enclosure is already in existence at the time the applicant is applying for a building permit, the enclosure shall be one from the Placer County "List of Approved Bear-Resistant Garbage Can Enclosures" prior to Environmental Health Final Occupancy approval.
- Wooden trash enclosures and trashcans kept in garages will not be approved, as it has been documented that bears can break into both.